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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAPLES 00863 270534Z
ACTION SIG-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 W
----------004161 270546Z /12/41
P 121202Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL NAPLES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6041
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT (ADD SUBPARA 5F, 5G, AND PARA 6)

S/IG

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ASIG
SUBJECT: POST MEMORANDUM - NAPLES
REF: STATE 112994 AND HARWOOD/COLANTONIO TELCON
1. AN INVISIBLE LINE JUST BELOW ROME SEPARATES ITALY'S NORTH AND SOUTH, THE FORMER CONSIDERED INDUSTRIALIZED AND THRIVING, THE LATTER RELATIVELY UNDERDEVELOPED AND STATIC. THE MAINLAND SOUTH FOR WHICH THE POST IS RESPONSIBLE IS A PART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD. IT IS LINKED TO THE U.S. BY THE MILLIONS OF ITALO-AMERICANS WHO TRACE THEIR ROOTS TO THE REGION.
2. THE COMMUNIST PARTY MADE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN ITALY AS A WHOLE DURING LAST ELECTION. THE GAINS IN THE SOUTH WERE RELATIVELY

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MODERATE AND BASICALLY THE CONSULAR DISTRICT REMAINS CONSERVATIVE. ITS FOUR REGIONS HAVE GIUNTAS WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AS PRESIDENT. WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS SUCH AS NAPLES, THIS IS LARGELY THE CASE WITH CITY ADMINISTRATIONS. HOWEVER, SIX OF THE FIFTEEN PROVINCES ARE RUN BY LEFTIST COALITIONS. OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE WESTERN
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WORLD IS THAT THE SOUTHERN VOTE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN ROME RATHER THAN A COMMUNIST REGIME.
3. THE LARGEST CITY IN THE SOUTH IS NAPLES WHERE THE CONSULATE GENERAL IS LOCATED. THE CITY, LED BY A COMMUNIST MAYOR SINCE 1975, IS PERHAPS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE WORLD BUT HAS SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM OVERPOPULATION, MALADMINISTRATION,

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AND YEARS OF NEGLECT. IN NAPLES AS ELSEWHERE IN THE SOUTH POLITICS WHICH ARE CHARACTERIZED BY PERSONALISM, PATRONAGE AND INTRIGUE ARE BECOMING MORE COMPLEX. THE GENERAL TREND AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES IS TOWARD INCREASED COLLABORATION AND ACCOMMODATION.
4. BILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAVE BEEN SPENT TO DEVELOP THE AREA BUT UN-FORTUNATELY A LARGE PART OF THE MONEY HAS BEEN USED FOR POLITICALLY INSPIRED RATHER THAN INTELLIGENT COST-EFFECTIVE ENTERPRISES AND INFRASTRUCTURE. MOREOVER, THE WAGE AND FRINGE BENEFITS NEGOTIATED

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BY THE LABOR UNIONS HAVE NOW INCREASED THE UNIT COST OF LABOR TO THE POINT WHERE VIRTUALLY ALL STATE ENTERPRISES ARE OPERATING IN THE RED. THESE HIGHER COSTS, ACCOMPANIED BY RELATIVELY LOW PRODUCTIVITY, HAVE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED MANY PRIVATE ENTERPRISES. SOME AMERICAN COMPANIES WHICH MADE INVESTMENTS IN THE 50'S AND 60'S HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ABANDON OR REDUCE THEIR OPERATIONS.
5. THE CONSULATE GENERAL OPERATES IN THE ABOVE DESCRIBED ENVIRON-MENT. ITS MAJOR TASKS ARE TO:
A) HANDLE A LARGE VOLUME AND FULL RANGE OF CONSULAR SERVICES PROMPTLY, EFFICIENTLY AND COURTEOUSLY;
B) REPRESENT THE USG IN A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOI AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES THROUGHOUT THE CONSULAR DISTRICT;
C) OBSERVE, ANALYZE AND REPORT ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND
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TRENDS IN COORDINATION WITH THE EMBASSY AND TO MEET WASHINGTON NEEDS;
D) PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES AS PART OF THE COUNTRY COMMERCIAL PLAN AND U.S. TRADE PROMOTION GOALS;
E) ASSIST AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES AND U.S. BUSINESSMEN LOCATED IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT AS APPROPRIATE;
F) OPERATE A WIDE-RANGING PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM;

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G) MAINTAIN CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH VITAL U.S. MILITARY COMMANDS AND ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. THE EVOLVING POLITICAL SITUATION AND DE FACTO STATUS OF NAPLES AS THE HOMEPORT OF THE SIXTH FLEET ADD AN IMPORTANT DIMENSION TO THE POST'S CONCERNS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.
6. POST STAFFING: ALTHOUGH OVERALL WORKLOAD HAS NOT DECREASED, SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL CUTS HAVE BEEN MADE THE PAST THREE YEARS. THE REDUCTIONS (40 US AND 25 FSL) WERE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH REALIGNMENT OF FUNCTIONS AND HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY. COLANTONIO

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